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World demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in accordance with resolution 1996/2 of the Economic and Social Council, provides an overview of demographic trends for the world, its geographic regions and selected countries, and for various development and income groups. It focuses on major demographic changes during recent decades, as well as projected changes during the time frame for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. The topics covered by the report include population size and change, fertility and family planning, mortality, changing population age structures, urbanization and city growth, and international migration, including recent trends in the number of refugees and asylum seekers.

According to a recent assessment by the United Nations, the world's population numbered 7.6 billion in 2017 and is projected to grow to around 8.6 billion in 2030. Most of the growth between 2017 and 2030 is projected to take place in Africa and Asia, with each geographic region adding around 0.4 billion people. In 2050, the world's population is expected to number around 9.8 billion. Projections of future trends suggest that the growth of the world's population is likely to continue at a slower pace after 2050. Moreover, the global population could stabilize at a level of roughly 11 billion people around the end of the century. In the short run, however, it is expected that the world will continue to see rapid changes in population size and population distribution by age, with important consequences for sustainable development.

Since the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, most countries have experienced rapid demographic changes. Today, there is a great diversity of demographic situations

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across countries and geographic regions, presenting various opportunities and challenges with regard to sustainable development. Early progress has been made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption in 2015. Nevertheless, population is still growing rapidly in most of the countries facing the greatest challenges with regard to ending poverty and hunger and ensuring health, education and equality for all. Many women in those countries report a desire to limit or postpone childbearing, yet their need for family planning is not being met through the use of modern methods of contraception. In this context, sustained and reinforced efforts will be needed to ensure that all countries meet the internationally agreed Goals and targets by 2030.

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I. Introduction

1. While the world's population continues to grow, there is a considerable variety of demographic trends across countries and geographic regions, and across development and income groups. The main demographic trends are determined by a declining level of fertility at the global level and by increasing levels of life expectancy at birth in almost all countries, which are causing a gradual ageing of populations worldwide, albeit in varying degrees. Some countries are still in an early phase of the demographic transition, with high proportions of children and youth, while in other countries the number of persons at older ages is growing faster than in the younger age groups. As reviewed during the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, the transformation of the age structure of human populations has major implications for sustainable development.

2. Human mobility and international migration are, more and more, shaping the size and characteristics of populations at the global, national and subnational levels, including their spatial distribution. Both internal and international migration are selective in terms of age, sex, level of education and other factors. For these and other reasons, migration can affect national and local trends relating to poverty, employment and other aspects of sustainable development.

3. More than half of the world's people live in urban areas, and projections indicate that the future growth of the human population can be accounted for almost entirely by a growing number of city dwellers. In many regions, the share of population living in cities, as well as the number and size of cities, will continue to grow, driven by a combination of factors, including a surplus of births over deaths in urban areas, migration from rural to urban areas and urbanization of formerly rural areas. Many cities attract considerable numbers of international migrants and play an important role in the integration of these new residents into the host society. Population growth and urbanization are also transforming the lives of those living in the rural areas around cities.

4. The number of international migrants, refugees and asylum seekers has reached historically unprecedented levels in recent years. The multidimensional reality of international migration is of major importance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination and requires adequate policy responses so that migrants and their families can make a better life for themselves and their families, while also contributing to the economic and social development of their host society and, potentially, their communities of origin as well.

5. The global demographic trends presented in the present report are based mostly on data contained in *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*, which constitutes the twenty-fifth round of official United Nations population estimates and projections, prepared biennially by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. The report also draws on other databases created and maintained by the Population Division. Data on urbanization and on the size and growth of cities are from *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*. Data on the number and composition of international migrants and refugees are from *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*. Data about contraceptive use and the unmet need for family planning are from the World Contraceptive Use 2017 data set and Model-based Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2017. Information about government policies regarding selected demographic trends is from the 2015 revision of the World Population Policies Database.

II. Population size and change

6. The world's population reached an estimated 7.6 billion in 2017 and is expected to grow to slightly more than 11 billion in 2100 (see table 1). Currently, the global population is growing at 1.2 per cent per year, adding approximately 83 million people annually. The global growth rate is expected to decline to about 0.5 per cent by 2050, driven by a continuing decline in levels of fertility.

Table 1
Population of the world, by development group, income group and geographic region (millions)

Development group, income group and geographic region	*Estimates*			*Projections*		
	1970	*1990*	*2017*	*2030*	*2050*	*2100*
World	3 701	5 331	7 550	8 551	9 772	11 184
More developed regions	1 009	1 147	1 260	1 290	1 298	1 285
Less developed regions	2 691	4 184	6 290	7 261	8 474	9 899
Least developed countries	308	511	1 002	1 334	1 917	3 199
Other less developed countries	2 383	3 673	5 288	5 927	6 557	6 701
High-income countries	851	1 000	1 192	1 250	1 288	1 288
Middle-income countries	2 652	4 006	5 679	6 362	7 067	7 376
Upper-middle-income countries	1 448	2 079	2 624	2 767	2 790	2 397
Lower-middle-income countries	1 204	1 927	3 055	3 595	4 277	4 979
Low-income countries	196	323	677	936	1 413	2 516
Africa	366	635	1 256	1 704	2 528	4 468
Asia	2 138	3 221	4 504	4 947	5 257	4 780
Europe	657	722	742	739	716	653
Latin America and the Caribbean	288	446	646	718	780	712
Northern America	231	280	361	395	435	499
Oceania	20	27	41	48	57	72

7. While the population of high-income countries[1] is projected to grow only slightly, rising from 1.2 billion in 2017 to 1.3 billion in 2050, the population of middle-income countries will grow by almost a quarter, from 5.7 billion to 7.1 billion, and low-income countries will see their combined population double, from 0.7 billion to 1.4 billion. The population of the group of least developed countries will rise from 1 billion to 1.9 billion. Thus, population growth is projected to be largest, and most rapid, in countries facing the greatest challenges in ending poverty and hunger and ensuring health, education and equality for all.

8. All population projections have a degree of inherent uncertainty, which increases as the projection interval grows longer. To account for this uncertainty, statistical procedures were applied to the population projections presented here, yielding a range of possible future trends. The median (or middle) trend was taken as the most likely trajectory, known as the "medium variant" of the official projections presented in *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision* (see figure I). Based on an analysis of past trends, the medium variant assumes a continued decline in the fertility level for countries where the number of births per woman is still relatively high; it also assumes a slight increase in fertility in countries where the current

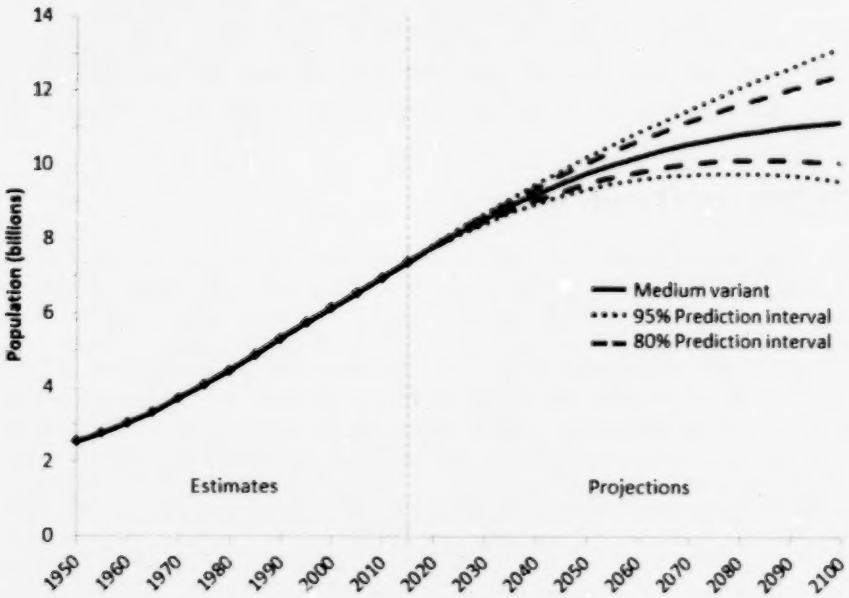
[1] As categorized by the World Bank in 2016.

fertility level lies below two births per woman. Life expectancy at birth is projected to rise throughout the world, based on the observation of an ongoing reduction in mortality rates for almost all countries.

9. The uncertainty of the United Nations population projections is described by prediction intervals based on the range of possible future trends. These intervals indicate that the global population will be, with a certainty of 95 per cent, between 8.4 and 8.7 billion in 2030, between 9.4 and 10.2 billion in 2050, and between 9.6 and 13.2 billion in 2100 (see figure I). Therefore, the world's population will most likely continue to grow throughout the present century. This growth will decelerate gradually over the next few decades, and there is a possibility that the global population will start to decline (slightly) towards the end of the century.

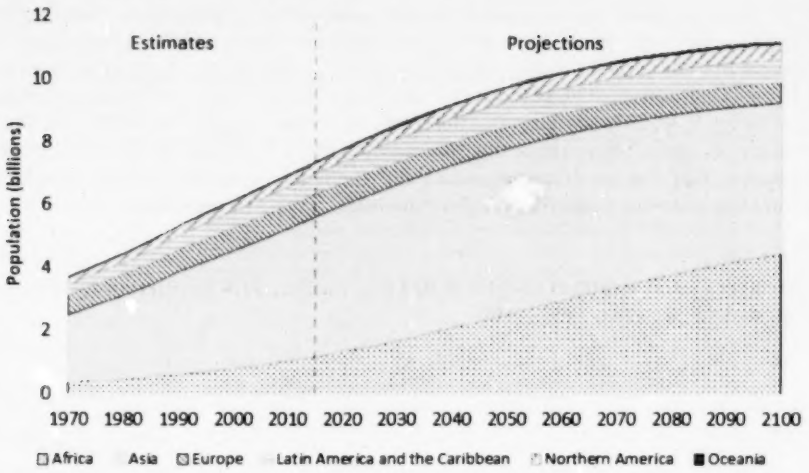
Figure I

Estimates and projections of total world population, with prediction intervals of 80 and 95 per cent, 1950–2100



10. The populations of geographic regions are projected to take divergent paths. The population of Africa, the fastest growing geographic region, is projected to double between 2017 and 2050, increasing by 1.3 billion people (see table 1). The projected growth in Asia will add 0.8 billion to a population of 4.5 billion by 2050. The population of Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania together are expected to grow by 0.2 billion between 2017 and 2050, while the population of Europe is projected to decline slightly, by 26 million people. The proportion of the global population living in Africa is expected to increase from 17 per cent in 2017 to 26 per cent in 2050. The proportion in Asia is projected to decline from 60 to 54 per cent over the same interval, while the share of global population living in all other geographic regions combined will fall from 24 to 20 per cent (see figure II).

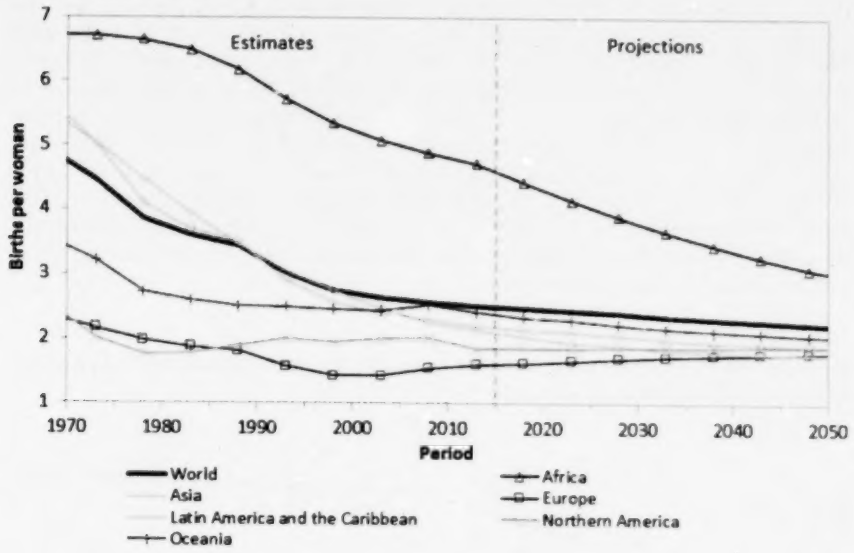
Figure II
Population of geographic regions, 1970–2100



III. Fertility and family planning

11. The world's level of total fertility declined from an average of 4.5 births per woman in 1970–1975 to 2.5 births per woman in 2010–2015. The world's fertility is expected to continue to decline and could reach 2.2 births per woman in 2045–2050 (see figure III). Except for Africa, all geographic regions today have a total fertility of less than the global average of 2.5 births per woman. There were 48 countries with a fertility level of four or more births per woman in 2010–2015, of which 40 were located in sub-Saharan Africa. Because of the relatively high level of fertility in these countries, a large proportion of the population belongs to younger age groups, and the number of youth is growing faster than in other geographic regions. Many of these countries regard their fertility level as too high and have policies aimed at lowering fertility.

Figure III
Total fertility (births per woman), for the world and by geographic region, 1970–1975 to 2045–2050



12. Fertility contributes to population growth in the long run when it is above the level required to replace the population and to population decline when it lies below that level. Nevertheless, even if fertility falls immediately to the replacement level or below in a given country, there will be a period of continued growth owing to the reproductive potential of relatively large cohorts in the age range during which childbearing typically occurs. This characteristic of demographic growth is known as "population momentum".

13. Since the 1970s, an increasing number of countries have reached fertility levels below the threshold of around 2.1 births per woman required for replacement of the population over time, given relatively low levels of mortality. Some countries have remained below this threshold for several decades. In the early 1970s, around one fifth of the world's population, including nearly all of the population of Europe and Northern America, lived in a country with a fertility level that was below the replacement level. Between 2010 and 2015, almost one half of the world's population lived in 1 of the 83 countries with fertility in this range. Sustained subreplacement fertility is increasingly regarded as a challenge by national Governments, as it contributes significantly to the ageing of their populations in the long run. In 2015, 29 Governments in Europe and 26 in other regions reported policies aimed at increasing fertility.

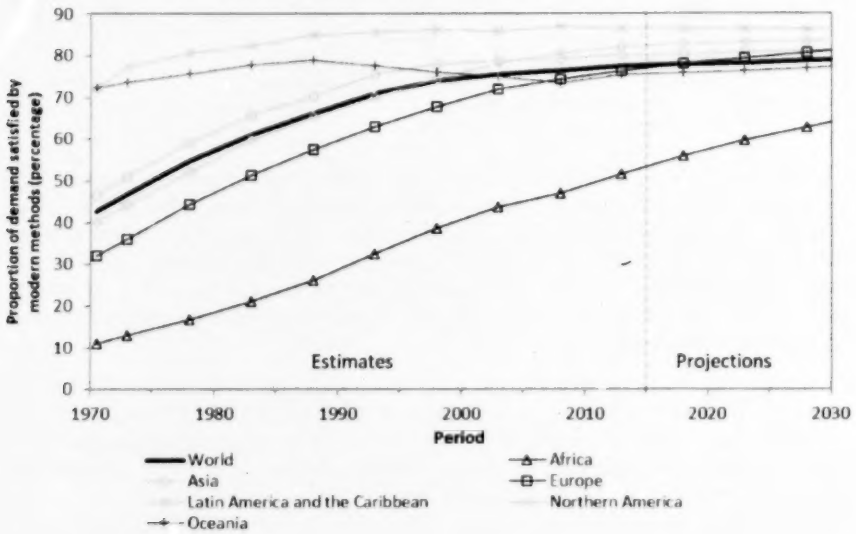
14. Between 1990 and 2017, contraceptive use among married or in-union women aged 15 to 49 grew from 55 per cent to 63 per cent; owing to the increasing availability of family planning services, a growing number of women and men were able to realize their right to decide, freely and responsibly, on the number and spacing of their children. Because of a rising demand for family planning, the increasing level of contraceptive use between 1990 and 2017 was not matched by an equivalent decline in the unmet need for family planning; nonetheless, between 1990 and 2017 the proportion of married or in-union women with an unmet need for family planning did decline from 15 per cent to 12 per cent. In Africa, as many as one in five married or in-union women have an unmet need for family planning, that is to say, they affirm

that they want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using any method of contraception to prevent pregnancy.

15. Worldwide in 2017, the proportion of the demand for family planning that was satisfied by using modern contraceptive methods (indicator 7.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 3) was 78 per cent, an increase from 69 per cent in 1990 (see figure IV). Across geographic regions, the demand satisfied by modern methods in 2017 was by far the lowest in Africa, where the use of modern contraceptive methods by couples who wish to prevent pregnancy remained low at 56 per cent. In all other major areas, the proportion of demand satisfied by modern methods was above 75 per cent. In 2017, less than half of the total demand for family planning was being met with modern methods in 45 countries (including 32 in Africa). In an additional 64 countries, more than half but less than 75 per cent of the total demand was being met by the use of modern methods.

Figure IV

Demand for family planning satisfied by modern contraceptive methods among married or in-union women aged 15-49, 1970–2030



16. Early marriage, early childbearing and unwanted pregnancy can have adverse social and economic consequences for girls and young women and impose health risks on both mother and child. Early marriage is an important predictor of early childbearing, as married adolescents are less likely than unmarried adolescents to use contraceptives to delay a first pregnancy and are also less likely to use modern contraceptives. Among women between the ages of 15 and 19, pregnancy and childbirth complications combined are the leading cause of death globally. [2] To counter these risks, adolescents need sexual and reproductive health-care services that are designed to meet their specific needs.

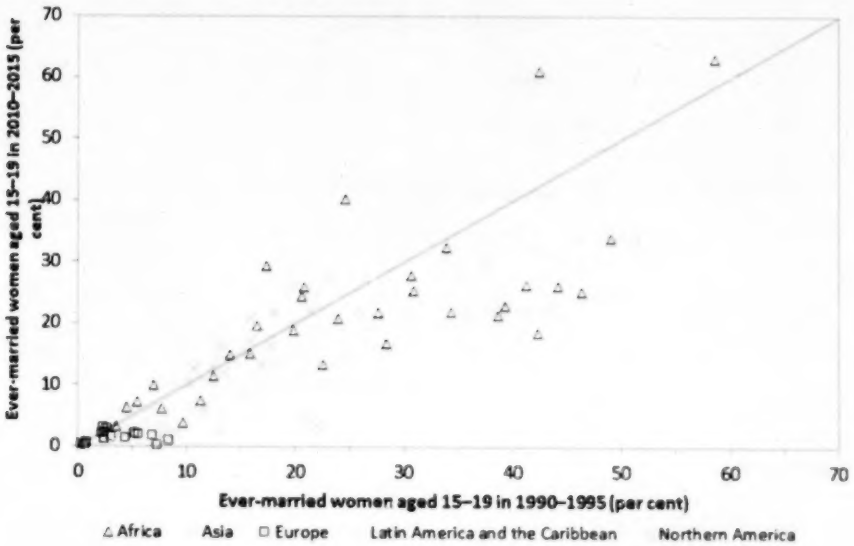
17. The percentage of adolescent females who had ever married, shown in figure V, decreased in most countries (in 75 out of 100 countries with available data) between 1990–1995 and 2010–2015. The markers below the diagonal line indicate countries where the percentage of ever-married adolescents declined. In 26 countries, 12 in

[2] World Health Organization, "Adolescents: health risks and solutions", fact sheet (updated May 2017), available from www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs345.

Europe and Northern America and 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean, the percentage decreased by at least 50 points. The percentage increased in 11 African countries and in 8 Latin and Caribbean countries.

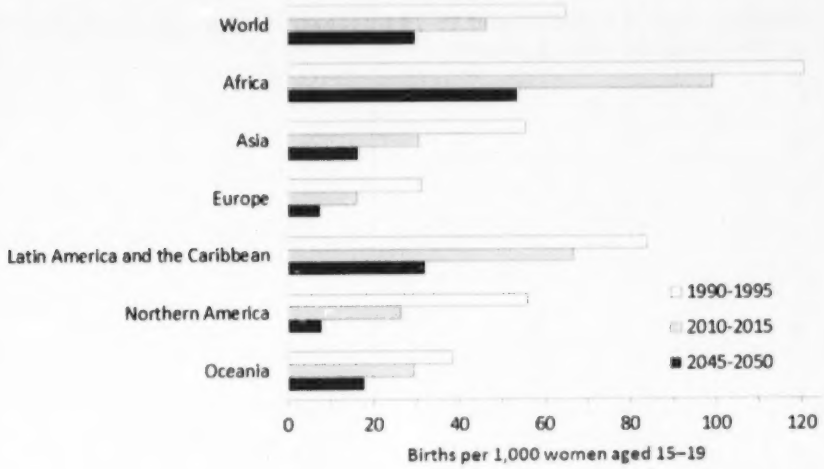
Figure V

Proportion of married women aged 15–19 by country and geographic region, 1990–1995 compared with 2010–2015



18. As early marriage has decreased, so has early childbearing. Globally, adolescent fertility has declined since 1990–1995. The average adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19) was 65 in the early 1990s and declined to 46 by 2010–2015. For 2045–2050, a further global decline to 30 annual births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 is projected (see figure VI). In Latin America and the Caribbean, the adolescent birth rate has declined significantly, but remained relatively high in 2010–2015, at 67 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, and is projected to decline to 32 in 2045–2050. Adolescent fertility is expected to remain high in Africa, too, with 24 countries having an adolescent birth rate above 100 in 2010–2015 and 24 countries projected to have a rate above 50 in 2045–2050. In contrast, for all countries in Europe and Northern America and for most in Asia and Oceania, the adolescent birth rate was below 50 in 2010–2015 and projected to decline further until 2045–2050, to below 10 in many countries. The prospects for this continued decline will depend on investments in girls' education, reduction or elimination of early marriage, and expanded access to information, education and services in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

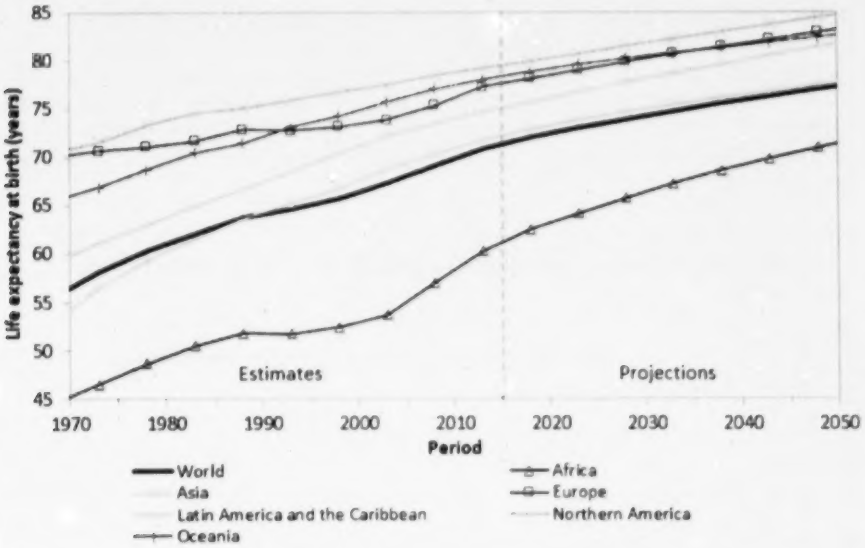
Figure VI
Adolescent fertility, for the world and by geographic region, 1990–1995, 2010–2015 (estimates) and 2045–2050 (projections)



IV. Mortality

19. In the second half of the twentieth century, the decline of mortality that started in the nineteenth century in Europe and other developed countries accelerated and spread globally. Between 1970–1975 and 2010–2015, global life expectancy at birth rose by 12.7 years, from 58.1 years to 70.8 years, for both sexes combined, and is projected to increase further to 76.9 years in 2045–2050 (see figure VII). By the end of the century, global life expectancy at birth is likely to exceed 82 years. In 2010–2015 the life expectancy of women was 73.1 years and that of men was 4.6 years lower at 68.5 years. The difference in life expectancy at birth between Africa and Northern America, the geographic regions with the lowest and highest life expectancy, respectively, decreased from 25 years in 1970–1975 to 19 years in 2010–2015 and is expected to decline to 13 years in 2045–2050.

Figure VII
Life expectancy at birth, for the world and by geographic region, from 1970–1975 to 2045–2050



20. In 2010–2015 the high-income countries reached, on average, a life expectancy at birth of 80.4 years. Thirty-two countries and areas had a life expectancy of more than 80 years, the majority of them in Europe. The highest life expectancy for a national population was recorded for Japan (83.3 years). Nevertheless, 25 countries, including some of the world's poorest countries, have still not reached a life expectancy of 60 years. Life expectancy at birth for the group of least developed countries was 62.9 years on average in 2010–2015.

21. For countries heavily affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, the progress made in life expectancy at birth since the 1950s was countered by declining life expectancies during the 1980s and 1990s. In sub-Saharan Africa, life expectancy had reached 49.1 years in 1985–1990 but then declined to 48.9 years in 1990–1995, followed by only marginal gains until 2000–2005. In recent years some of the losses resulting from HIV/AIDS were reversed, and sub-Saharan Africa achieved a life expectancy at birth of 57.9 years in 2010–2015.

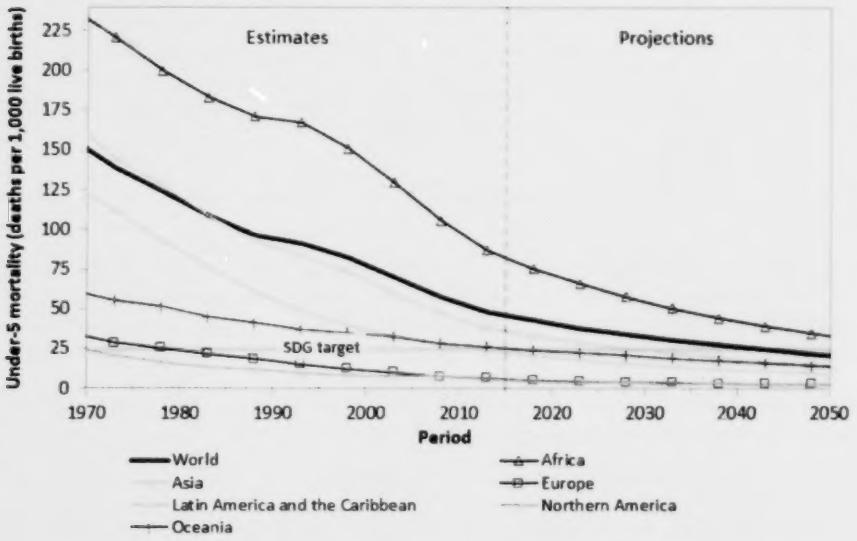
22. The increase in life expectancy at birth commonly starts with reductions in the risk of death occurring among young children. High infant and child mortality is largely a result of a high incidence and fatality of communicable diseases at younger ages. Progress in reducing infant and child mortality from these diseases consequently depends largely on improvements in living conditions, sanitation, nutrition, and health technologies, such as vaccines, that contribute to preventing common mortality from infections and malnutrition. The under-five mortality rate — the probability of dying between birth and a child's fifth birthday — declined worldwide from 91 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990–1995 to 48 in 2010–2015 (see figure VIII). Over the same period, under-5 mortality in Asia declined from 84 to 38 per 1,000 live births, and in Latin America from 49 to 24 per 1,000. The largest absolute reduction in under-5 mortality was recorded in Africa, where the rate declined from 167 to 87 deaths per 1,000 live births.

23. Target 2 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 calls for a level of under-5 mortality in 2030 of no more than 25 per 1,000 live births. Latin America and the

Caribbean already reached this target, on average, in 2010–2015. According to the most recent mortality projections from the United Nations, both Asia and Oceania will also meet the target by 2030. Europe and Northern America have already achieved the target and are expected to reach under-5 mortality levels of less than 5 per 1,000 by 2030. Some countries, however, seem unlikely to meet the target if current trends continue. Globally, there are 59 countries, including 43 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 4 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 3 in Oceania, where the achievement of target 2 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 is unlikely given current trends, suggesting the need for significant additional resources and efforts to obtain the desired result.

Figure VIII

Under-5 mortality, for the world and by geographic region, 1970–1975 to 2045–2050



24. Target 1 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 requires reducing the maternal mortality ratio globally to less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. From 1990 to 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio fell by 44 per cent, reaching 216 per 100,000 in 2015.[3] The number of deaths from maternal causes declined from an estimated 532,000 in 1990 to 303,000 in 2015. All developing regions experienced substantial reductions in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015. Nevertheless, the rate remains above 500 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in sub-Saharan Africa and above 100 in the Caribbean, Oceania, and South-Eastern and Southern Asia. To achieve target 1 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 globally by 2030 will require an accelerated pace of reduction in the maternal mortality ratio.

25. Once life expectancy at birth has reached high levels, further increases depend on reducing mortality at older ages, as measured by increased life expectancy at age 60. Globally, the average person turning age 60 could expect to live an additional 20.2 years in 2010–2015. This indicator is projected to rise to 22.9 years in 2045–

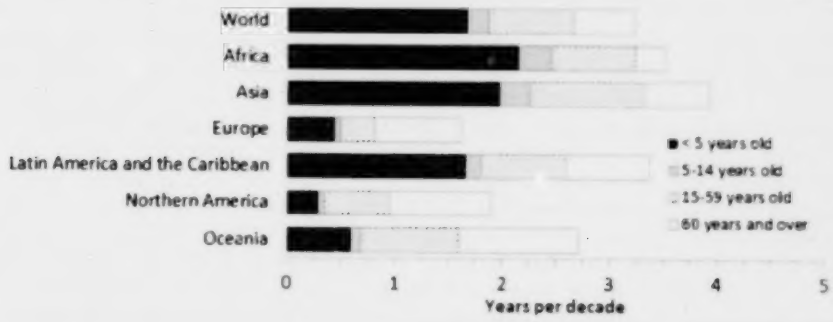
[3] World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank and United Nations Population Division, "Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2015 — estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division" (Geneva, WHO, 2015).

2050. Between 1970 and 2015, the contribution of reduced mortality at ages 60 and above to the increase in life expectancy at birth was about 0.6 years per decade, while the contribution from reduced mortality below age 5 was about 1.7 years (see figure IX). Between 2015 and 2050, it is expected that the contribution to the rise in global life expectancy from each of these two age groups will be around 0.5 years per decade. In regions where mortality at younger ages is quite low already, such as Europe and Northern America, the future contribution of reduced mortality below age 15 will be negligible compared with the impact of the anticipated reductions in mortality above that age.

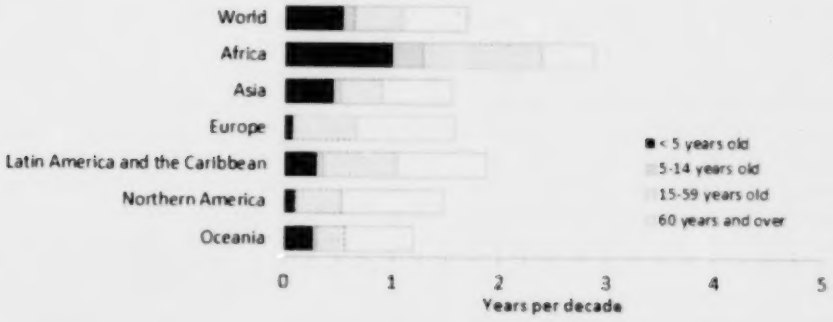
Figure IX

Contribution of reductions in age-specific mortality to improvements in life expectancy at birth, for the world and by geographic region, 1970–2015 and 2015–2050

A. 1970–2015 (estimates)



B. 2015–2050 (projections)



V. Changing population age structures

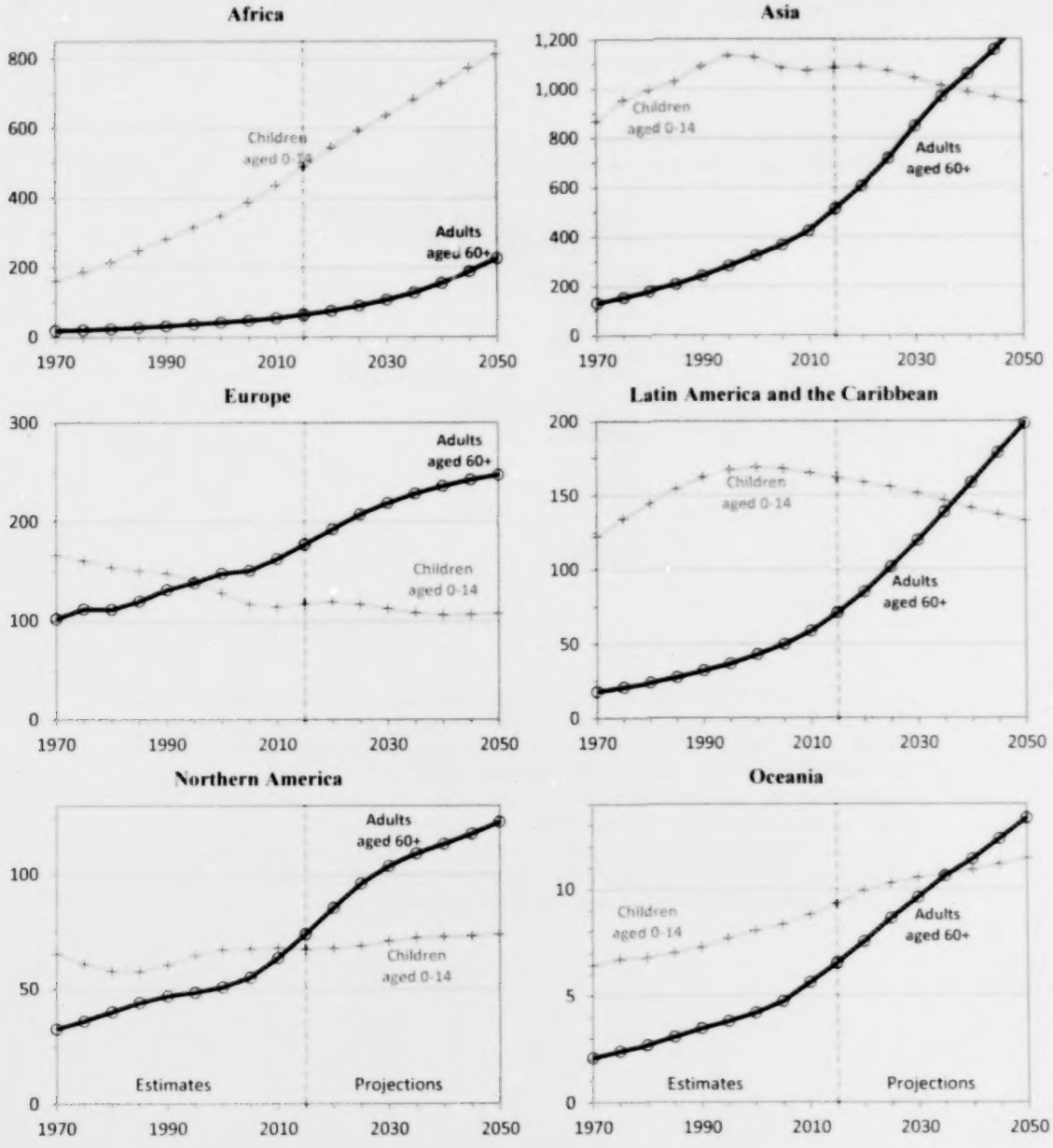
26. Population ageing is a global demographic trend with major consequences. It is a long-term process characterized by a rising proportion of population at older ages and a shrinking proportion at younger ages. The pace of population ageing is determined mainly by the timing and pace of the decline in fertility. The reduction of mortality at older ages also contributes to population ageing. In addition, international migration can affect the age structure of countries of origin or destination, depending on the number of migrants and their average age compared with the population size and age distribution of the countries involved.

27. Population ageing can be illustrated by tracking trends in the number of persons or the proportion of the total population in different age groups. In 2017, about 61 per cent of the world's population was between the ages of 15 and 59, while about 26 per cent were under 15 years of age and 13 per cent were aged 60 years or over. According to population projections by the United Nations, the number of children will remain stable at around 2 billion between 2017 and 2050; the number of persons aged 60 years or over will reach about 2 billion by 2050, doubling from 1 billion in 2017. The population aged between 15 and 59 years of age is expected to increase from 4.6 billion in 2017 to 5.6 billion in 2050. Thus, the group of people aged 15 to 59 years is expected to grow at a slower rate than the group of people aged 60 years or over; as a result, the share of this middle age group in the global population is projected to decline by 4 percentage points, falling from 61 to 57 per cent between 2017 and 2050. A large part of the increased share of those aged 60 and above is attributable to the increased share of those aged 80 and above, which is expected to increase from 1.8 to 4.3 per cent of the world's total population. This age group is growing faster than any younger age group.

28. Population ageing started at different times and is proceeding at varying speeds across countries and geographic regions. Trends in the number of children under 15 years of age compared with the number of people aged 60 years or over depict the different stages of the ageing process by region (see figure X). Europe and Northern America have the oldest populations; in these regions, children below 15 years of age are already outnumbered by peopled aged 60 years or over. The ageing process is more advanced in Europe compared with Northern America, where the number of persons aged 60 years or over surpassed the number of children only recently. Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania are projected to follow a similar path over the next few decades, with the older population expected to outnumber the population of children by 2040. In Africa, in contrast, the population of children is expected to grow rapidly and to remain much larger than the population that is aged 60 and above between now and 2050.

29. When fertility falls and the number of births declines, the first result is a rise in the proportion of the population that is of working age. Later, the share of the working-age population may decline as population ageing comes to dominate population trends. In the interim, however, the expansion in the share of the working-age population provides an opportunity for rapid economic growth on a per capita basis and may thus yield a "demographic dividend" during a window that typically lasts for a few decades. Realizing the dividend requires the availability of productive jobs for the growing number of persons of working age. In that situation, an increasing proportion of the working-age population can contribute to rapid economic growth and sustainable development. During this period, policies to support sustained and inclusive economic growth and to promote decent work for all, in keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, can potentially free up resources for investment and increase the productivity of labour, boosting per capita incomes. In this context, investments in health, education and employment opportunities for young people are crucial inputs for human development and economic growth.

Figure X
Population under 15 and above 60 years of age by geographic region, 1970–2050 (in millions)

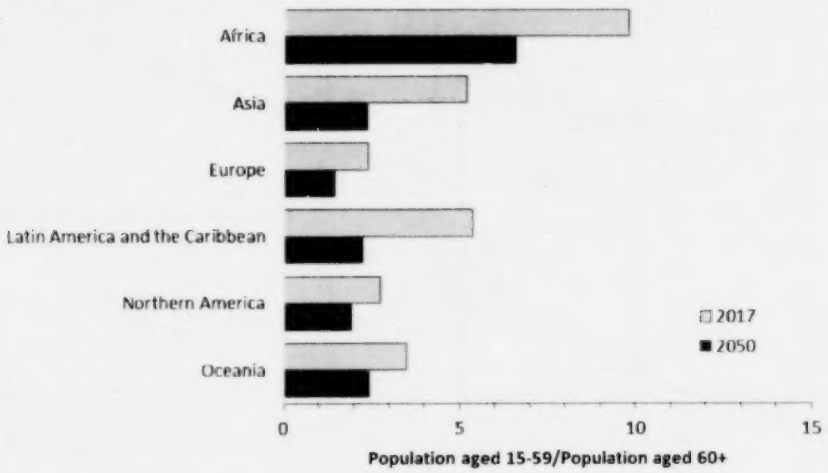


30. The duration of this intermediate phase, characterized by a rise in the proportion of the population that is of working age, is limited. Once the number of older persons starts to increase, the size of the population aged 20 to 59 years compared with the population at older ages begins to shrink (see figure XI). At that point, fewer persons of working age are available to contribute to the support of older persons. Today, the relative size of the working-age population compared with the population at older

ages is the largest in Africa, with the former being almost 10 times as large as the latter, and the smallest in Europe, where the working-age population is only about two-and-a-half times as large as the older population. As populations grow older, the relative size of the working-age population compared with the older population will decline further in all geographic regions.

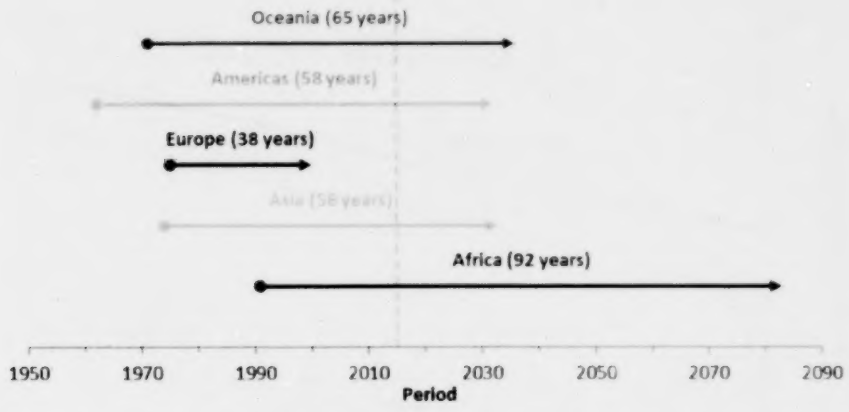
Figure XI

Ratio of population aged 20-59 years to population aged 60 years or over by geographic region, 2017 (estimates) and 2050 (projections)



31. The period for realizing a "demographic dividend" is characterized by a rise in the proportion of the working-age population compared with younger and older age groups. The duration of this interval depends on the speed and magnitude of the decline in fertility. The phase of "demographic dividend", according to a study of national transfer accounts, started in Europe in the 1960s and was followed by all other regions, except Africa, in the 1970s. In Europe, the dividend came to an end around 2000, after about four decades, while the Americas, Asia and Oceania can expect it to end during the 2030s, after roughly six decades. In Africa, the dividend will last for about nine decades, until the 2080s (see figure XII).

Figure XII
Time period of a potential "demographic dividend" and its duration (in years) by geographic region

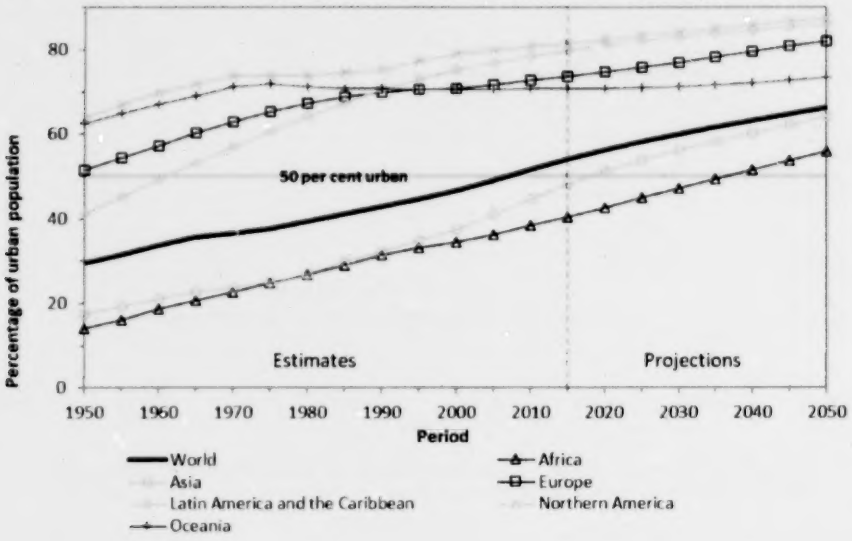


Source: Andrew Mason and others, "Support ratios and demographic dividends: estimates for the world", United Nations Population Division Technical Paper No. 2017/1 (New York, 2017).

VI. Urbanization and city growth

32. Globally, 54 per cent of people live in urban areas in 2018 and projections indicate that the future growth of the world's population can be accounted for almost entirely by growth in the number of city dwellers. By 2030, the share of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to reach 60 per cent; in 2050, roughly two thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas, compared with roughly one third in 1950. Currently, the most urbanized region of the world is Northern America at 82 per cent, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (80 per cent) and Europe (74 per cent) (see figure XIII). In 2018, a majority of the population is still living in rural areas in Africa and Asia, with 40 and 48 per cent of their respective populations living in urban areas. Both regions are urbanizing rapidly, however, and by 2030 it is projected that urban settlements will be home to 47 per cent of the population of Africa and 56 per cent of the population of Asia. The share of the urban population is expected to rise to 71 per cent in Oceania, 77 per cent in Europe and more than 85 per cent both in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Northern America.

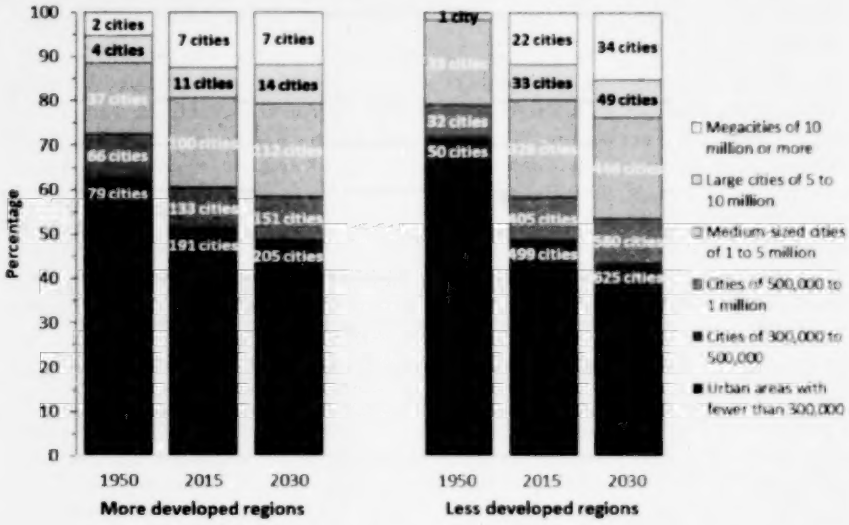
Figure XIII
Urban population as a proportion of total population by geographic region, 1950–2050



33. As the global urban population has grown, so too have the number of cities and the populations of most cities. The number of "megacities" (those with more than 10 million inhabitants) grew from just 10 in 1990 to 33 in 2018 and is projected to rise to 41 in 2030. All new megacities projected to emerge by 2030 are in the less developed regions (see figure XIV). Urban population growth is driven by the growth of cities of all sizes. The number of large cities (between 5 and 10 million inhabitants) increased from 21 in 1990 to 49 in 2018 and is expected to grow to 63 in 2030. The number of medium-sized cities (between 1 and 5 million inhabitants) and of smaller cities (fewer than 1 million inhabitants) is growing as well, especially in the less developed regions.

Figure XIV

Distribution of the urban population by size class of urban settlement, and number of cities in more developed and less developed regions, 1950, 2015 (estimates) and 2030 (projections)



34. Urbanization is driven in part by the migration of people from rural areas, who are drawn to cities in search of jobs and other opportunities. Nevertheless, the excess of births over deaths within urban areas is an important driver of population growth in many cities, particularly in the parts of the less developed regions where fertility remains high. A recent study of 23 city regions worldwide showed that for the majority of cities in Africa, an excess of births over deaths is the main cause of population growth.[4] Population growth in rural areas that causes such areas to become urban, and the outward expansion of the urban boundaries of cities, also contribute to urbanization. Thus, continued urbanization does not depend solely on rural-to-urban migration. In some cities, international migration is increasingly becoming another important driver of population growth. Cities, in turn, play a critical role in integrating migrants into host societies.

35. Urbanization has generally been a positive force for economic growth and human development. Cities are places where, thanks to a diverse and well-educated labour force and a high concentration of businesses, entrepreneurship and technological innovation can thrive. Urban areas also serve as hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and more, where the proximity of commerce, government and transportation provide the infrastructure necessary for sharing knowledge and information. Approximately 80 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) is generated in cities.[5]

36. Urban dwellers are often more literate and more highly educated, are more likely to have access to decent work, adequate housing and social services, and can enjoy enhanced opportunities for cultural and political participation as well as gender equality. Economies of scale in urban areas can facilitate the sustainable provision of

[4] Mathias Lerch, "International migration and city growth", United Nations Population Division Technical Paper No. 2017/10 (New York, 2017).

[5] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change — Working Group III Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

infrastructure such as roads, piped water and electricity, as well as basic services such as education and health care, all of which are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the linkages that cities and small towns establish with surrounding rural areas facilitate service delivery and infrastructure improvements more broadly and can expand opportunities for off-farm employment to rural dwellers as well.

37. Rapid and unplanned urban growth are challenges for sustainable development. Although the share of slum dwellers in developing countries declined from 39 per cent in 2000 to 30 per cent in 2014, more than 880 million people, including many internal and international migrants, continued to live in slums or informal settlements.[6] Owing to the rapid growth of population in urban areas, the number of people living in slums continues to grow. Unplanned or inadequately managed urban expansion can impair sustainability, owing to urban sprawl, pollution and environmental degradation. Indeed, cities are growing twice as fast in terms of land area as they are in terms of population.[7] Under such conditions, cities are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

38. Government policies for planning and managing urban growth can help ensure that the benefits of urbanization are shared equitably and sustainably. Sustainable Development Goal 11 is a commitment to making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Policies that aim to restrict rural-to-urban migration are generally ineffective at forestalling city growth and can even result in economic, social and environmental harm. Sustainable urbanization requires that cities generate adequate income and employment opportunities; provide the necessary infrastructure for water and sanitation, energy, transportation and communication; ensure equitable access to housing and services; minimize the number of people living in slums; and preserve natural assets within the city and surrounding areas.

VII. International migration

39. The number of international migrants, or persons living in a country other than their country of birth, has continued to grow in recent years. Worldwide, the number of international migrants reached an unprecedented 258 million in 2017, up from 248 million in 2015, 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000. The average annual rate of growth of this population increased from 2 per cent per year between 2000 and 2005 to 2.9 per cent between 2005 and 2010. Between 2010 and 2015, the number of international migrants grew more slowly, at around 2.4 per cent per year, and between 2015 and 2017 the number grew at around 2.0 per cent per year.

40. During the period from 2000 to 2017, the number of international migrants grew by about 85 million. The largest part of this increase occurred in Asia, where the number of international migrants grew from 49.2 million in 2000 to 79.6 million in 2017. Over the same interval, the migrant population also grew rapidly in Europe, from 56.3 million to 77.9 million, and in Northern America, from 40.4 million to 57.7 million.

41. The growth in the global number of migrants was driven mostly by an increase in the number of international migrants moving from Asian countries, which increased by 40.6 million, or 62 per cent, between 2000 and 2017. The increase was also significant for international migrants coming from countries in Africa (14.7 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (13.0 million) and Europe (11.6 million).

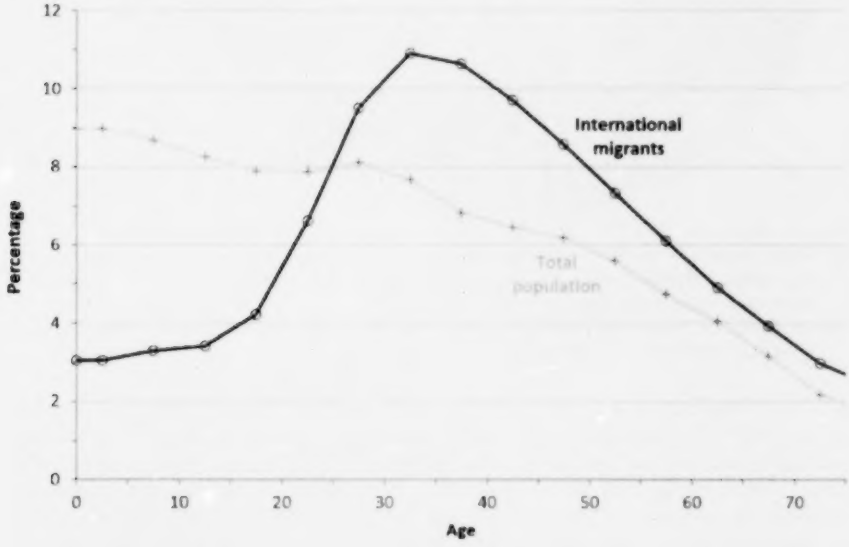
[6] United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015* (New York, 2015).

[7] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change*.

42. At the end of 2016, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world reached an estimated 25.9 million, up from 25.3 million at mid-year in 2015, representing around 10 per cent of all international migrants. Around 83 per cent of these refugees and asylum seekers were hosted by countries in developing regions. Turkey hosted the largest number, with around 3.1 million persons. The second largest country of asylum was Jordan (around 2.9 million), followed by the State of Palestine (2.2 million), Lebanon (1.6 million) and Pakistan (1.4 million). The main countries of origin for refugees and asylum seekers were the Syrian Arab Republic (5.7 million), the State of Palestine (5.4 million), Afghanistan (2.9 million), South Sudan (1.4 million) and Somalia (1.1 million).[8]

43. Most migrants are of working age; compared with the total population, a larger proportion of international migrants were in that age range in 2017 (see figure XV). Globally, children are underrepresented among international migrants. This reflects the fact that children who are born in the host country of their immigrant parents do not meet the definition of "international migrant" that is used for statistical purposes.

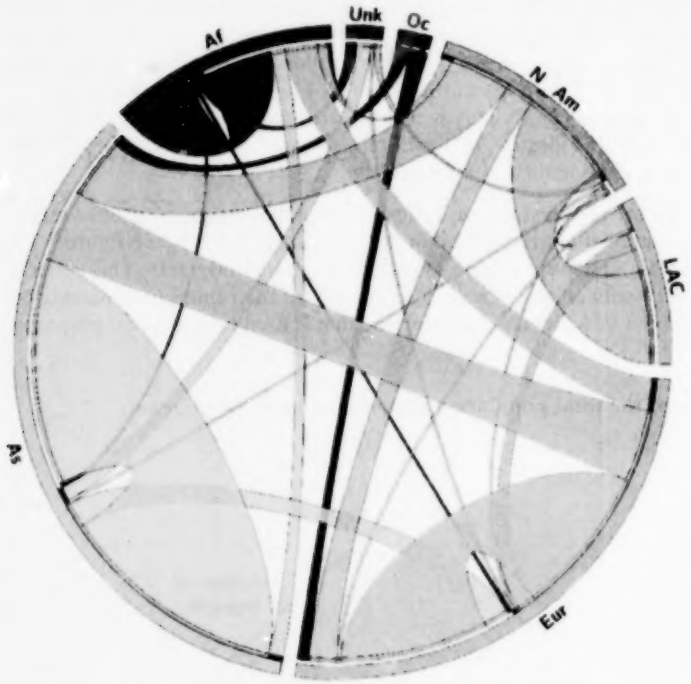
Figure XV
Age distribution of the total population and of international migrants worldwide, 2017



44. International migrants reside mainly in countries of the same region in which they were born. The majority of the international migrants born in Europe (67 per cent), Asia (60 per cent), Oceania (60 per cent) and Africa (53 per cent) were living in another country of the same region in 2017 (see figure XVI). International migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean (84 per cent) and Northern America (72 per cent) were primarily residing outside their region of birth, however.

[8] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Global trends: forced displacement 2016", annex table 2, available from www.unhcr.org/5943e8a34.pdf; and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), "UNRWA in figures", as of 1 January 2017, available from www.unrwa.org/resources/about-unrwa/unrwa-figures-2017.

Figure XVI
Number of international migrants, by regions of origin and destination, 2017



Note: The bands represent international migration within a geographic region or from one geographic region to another. The width of the bands represents the number of international migrants in a particular flow.

Abbreviations: Af, Africa; As, Asia; Eur, Europe; N_AM, Northern America; Oc, Oceania; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; and Unk, Unknown.

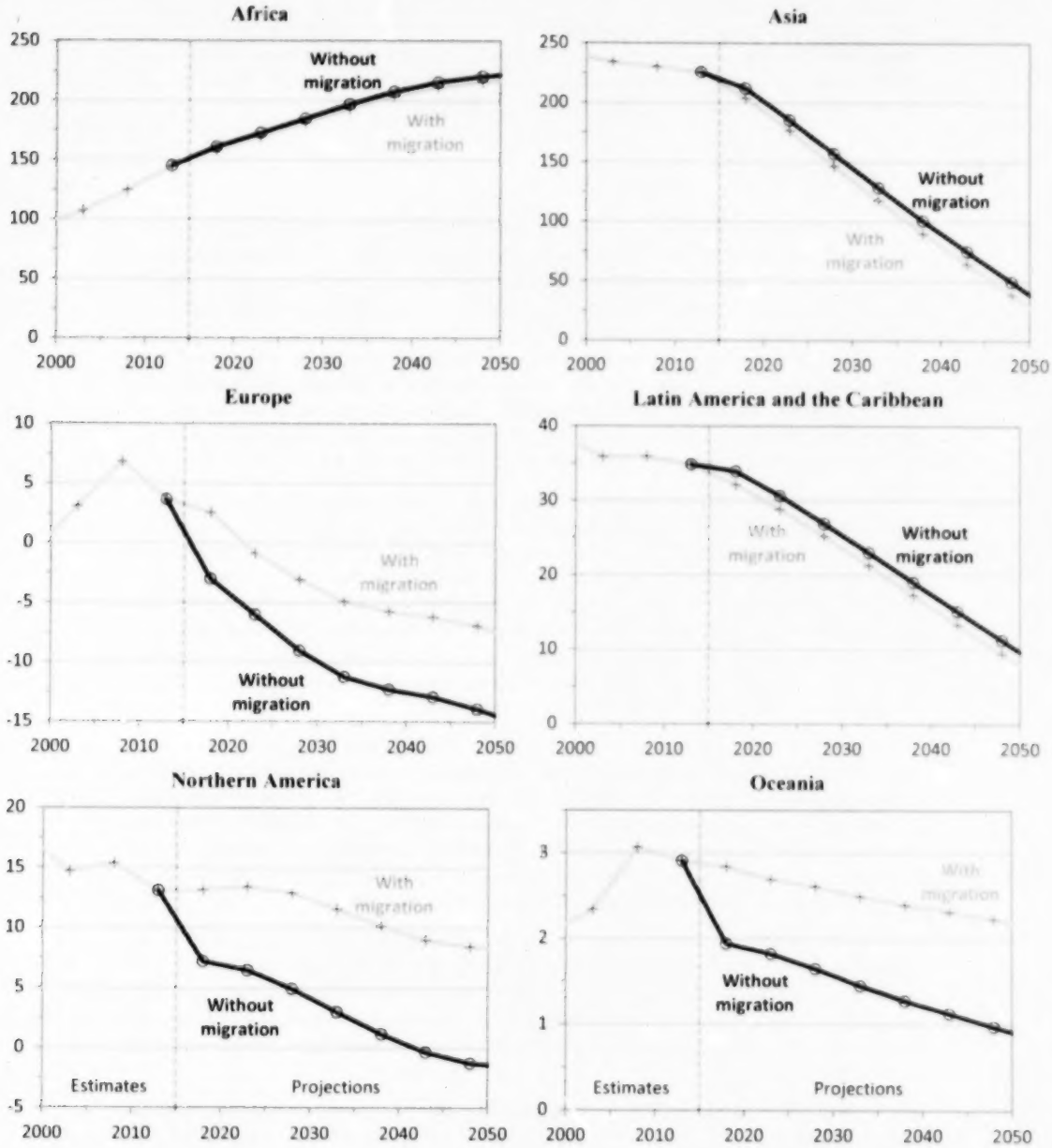
45. The contribution of international migration to population growth in some parts of the world is considerable. In countries with an excess of deaths over births, migration can slow or counter trends of population decline. According to estimates from *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*, the greatest positive contribution of migration to population growth occurred in Northern America, where it accounted for 42 per cent of growth between 2000 and 2015. Without the contribution of international migration, the population of Europe would have declined between 2000 and 2015. With few exceptions, international migration did not significantly affect population numbers in most parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

46. The contribution of international migration is projected to have a growing impact on the future size of populations. Figure XVII shows the projected change in total population under two scenarios: the medium-variant projection, which generally assumes a continuation of recent levels of net migration, and the zero-migration variant, which assumes the absence of international migration for all future time periods, starting in 2015–2020. For Europe, the population is projected to decline from 2020–2025 onwards, when the contribution of international migration will, according to the medium-variant projection, no longer be sufficient to compensate for the surplus of deaths over births. Without the effect of international migration, that is, according to the zero-migration variant, the shrinking of the European population would start earlier, by 2015–2020. In Northern America, without the projected

contribution of international migration, the population would start to decline in absolute terms from 2040 onwards.

Figure XVII

Estimated and projected changes in total population over 5-year time intervals by region, from 2000–2005 to 2045–2050, with and without international migration as from 2015–2020 (in millions)



47. International migration cannot halt or reverse the long-term trend towards population ageing caused by declining fertility and rising life expectancy. Nevertheless, because international migrants are, in general, younger than the population in countries of destination, they add more to the size of the working-age population than to the older population, resulting in a slower ageing of the population.

48. The ageing of the world's population leads, in most geographic regions, to significantly increasing ratios of the number of older persons to those of working age, even with the projected contribution of international migration. Without the contribution of international migration, the increase in these ratios between 2017 and 2050 would be higher by 8 percentage points for Northern America, 6 percentage points for Oceania and 5 percentage points for Europe.

VIII. Conclusions

49. The world's population reached 7.6 billion in 2017. Global population growth, currently at a rate of 1.2 per cent per year, is expected to slow in the coming decades. At the end of the century, when the global population may number around 11 billion, its rate of growth is expected to be close to zero. The number of persons added per year, currently more than 80 million, will decline slowly in future years: it is expected that in 2030 the annual increase in global population will be a little more than 70 million, and in 2050 just over 50 million. Most of the growth in future decades will take place in the 47 least developed countries, of which 33 are located in sub-Saharan Africa, where the challenges of ending poverty and hunger and ensuring access to health care, education and equal opportunity for all are the greatest.

50. Countries are facing diverse situations over the coming decades regarding population growth rates, changing age structures and shifts in the spatial distribution of population (including between rural and urban areas) and in the size and direction of international migration flows affecting their populations. Reconciling the different contexts of demographic change with the priorities for human development and sustainability, as established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is a shared global responsibility. National strategies will need to take population dynamics into account in order to make sound decisions on the policies and resources required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. Some changes seem to be pointing in the right direction. High fertility (five or more births per woman) is becoming rare, including among countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries. Many of these countries, however, still have a fertility level above four births per woman, resulting in populations that are relatively youthful and growing rapidly. If fertility continues to decline in these countries, there will be an opportunity for rapid economic growth thanks to a favourable age structure: the so-called "demographic dividend".

52. In 83 countries, fertility was below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman in 2010–2015. Countries with sustained below-replacement fertility will experience challenges resulting from the rapid ageing of their populations over the next few decades. Many of those countries have policies to support parents and families in caring for children, and in some cases these policies seem to have boosted the fertility level.

53. The level of unmet need for family planning among married or in-union women has decreased globally since 1990. Nevertheless, there remains an unmet need for family planning, and the level of unmet need is much higher in Africa. Increased support for providing information and services will be needed to achieve the goal of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including

for family planning, as agreed by the international community as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

54. The rise in life expectancy at birth in recent decades is expected to continue until the end of the century. By 2045–2050, global life expectancy could be almost seven years higher than it is today; countries with relatively high levels of mortality at present, including many African countries and least developed countries, are expected to experience above-average gains in life expectancy over this period. The rise of life expectancy at birth will depend on reducing child and maternal mortality in these countries at an unprecedented pace, while also addressing the remaining burden of major communicable diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases.

55. It is important for policymakers to be aware of, and react to, the transformation of the population age distribution that occurs over the course of the demographic transition. An initial rise in the share of the population that is of working age creates a window of opportunity for rapid economic growth and sustainable development. Many countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries, have the possibility of reaping a "demographic dividend" in the coming decades. Policies to support a healthy and educated population, provide decent jobs and create conditions conducive to investment and growth will enable countries to benefit from a high or rising proportion of the working-age population.

56. In other countries and regions, the process of demographic transition started earlier and has reached a more advanced stage. In parts of the Americas, Asia and Oceania, the working-age population is relatively large, thanks to a substantial decline of fertility in recent decades, and thus the time to reap a "demographic dividend" is now, lasting roughly until the 2030s. In Europe and Northern America, that stage of the demographic transition has already come to an end and countries are now facing the challenges of an ageing population. This situation requires policies to adapt the economy and public programmes to the needs and realities of a population with a declining share of those who are of working age and an increasing share of those at older ages.

57. Urbanization continues to shape the spatial distribution of the world's population, and it is expected that most population growth in the future will be reflected in the increasing size of urban areas, especially in the less developed regions. Internal and international migrants, often young and well educated, contribute to the concentration of population in cities and large urban agglomerations. Urbanization has generally been a positive force for economic growth and human development, including for the surrounding rural areas, which with appropriate policies and planning can benefit from social and economic linkages to nearby cities and towns. Properly managed, urbanization can help in combating poverty, inequality and environmental degradation.

58. Governments have increasingly recognized the contribution of international migration to sustainable development, and they have agreed on the importance of international cooperation to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, with full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of all migrants, refugees and displaced persons. The unprecedented number of international migrants in recent years, including the rapidly growing number of refugees and asylum seekers, has drawn attention to the issue and increased the priority given to international migration on the global agenda. On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, calling for the development of two global compacts in 2018: a refugee compact, being prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and a migration compact, being developed by Member States through the Assembly.

59. The availability of high quality, accessible, timely and reliable demographic data, disaggregated according to key characteristics of individuals, is essential for planning and implementing policies and programmes in follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The capacity to collect, disseminate and analyse relevant data and statistics at the global, regional, national and subnational levels can facilitate evidence-based policymaking and support the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Improvements in civil registration and health information systems, the use of georeferencing as a standard practice of data collection, and broad participation in the 2020 round of censuses are essential elements for tracking the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Traditional data sources require strengthening while the world also needs to learn to exploit alternative sources of information, including "big data", which can in no way replace the traditional sources of information about demographic change and global population trends.

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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2017: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains a review of the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in implementing its programme of work in the field of population during 2017. It covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality and migration; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support given to intergovernmental processes through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

The objective of the programme of work in the field of population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the development agenda at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development acts as the governing body for the Population Division and thus provides guidance on the work programme as part of its annual session.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.9/2018/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the programme of work on population. The programme of work is guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] by the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action (resolution S-21/2, annex) and by the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 (see resolution 65/234). The outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (resolution 68/4) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), are also taken into account. The work of the Population Division is guided also by the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), and by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016–2017, the objective of the work programme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda (see A/69/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 5). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance and oversight.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme on population, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (see A/70/6 (Sect. 9), subprogramme 5), are as follows:

(a) Enhanced awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding of the interactions between population and development, including the gender dimensions of demographic phenomena, especially in regard to fertility, mortality, migration, family planning, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(b) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of relevant instruments of the United Nations development agenda;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data, sex- and age-disaggregated data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds and programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national government offices,

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult with the Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2017, grouped by thematic area. In addition, it provides a summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the provision of support to intergovernmental processes, the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals, the dissemination of population information and data, and technical cooperation. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division published a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators, *World Contraceptive Use 2017*,[2] which includes up-to-date, survey-based estimates of contraceptive prevalence and the unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) who are married or in a union.

7. The Division used the information compiled in *World Contraceptive Use 2017* to generate a comprehensive set of annual, model-based estimates and projections of family planning indicators for the period from 1970 to 2030, published as *Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2017*.[3] The model-based estimates provide information for the global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1, "Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods" (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV).

8. An overview of key patterns and trends regarding Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1 is presented in a *Population Facts* brief entitled "Tracking Global Progress in Family Planning".[4] The Division also published *World Family Planning Highlights — 2017*,[5] which provides an overview of global and regional levels and trends in key indicators for family planning for married and in-union women.

9. The Division released *World Marriage Data 2017*, a comprehensive collection of data on the marital status of the population by age and sex for 232 countries or areas of the world from around 1950 until 2017.[6] The data set and graphics are available online for users to query interactively and to download. The Division also released *World Contraceptive Use by Marital Status and Age 2017*, a data set of family planning indicators for women of reproductive age (from 15 to 49 years) disaggregated by marital status and age. The data pertain to 186 countries or areas of the world for the period from 1950 to 2016.[7]

10. In 2017, the Population Division published *World Fertility Data 2017*. This data set builds on the historical repository of demographic data and reports collected over

[2] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcu2017.shtml.

[3] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/family-planning/cp_model.shtml.

[4] Available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-11.pdf.

[5] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/family/WFP2017_Highlights.pdf.

[6] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/marriage-unions/WMD2017.shtml.

[7] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcuma2017.shtml.

more than 50 years by the Population Division and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The data set includes information derived from censuses, household surveys and civil registration systems, as well as fertility estimates produced by the Division.[8]

11. The Population Division released the *World Fertility Report 2015*,[9] which focuses on trends in fertility since 1950 and fertility projections up to 2100. The report further discusses empirical data underlying fertility estimates and the effects of fertility on population growth. The key findings of the *World Fertility Report 2015* will be presented in *World Fertility Highlights 2015*. The Population Division also started work on the *World Fertility Report 2017*, which will present an overview of global levels and trends in adolescent fertility for development groups and geographic regions.

III. Health and mortality

12. The Division issued two *Population Facts* briefs on mortality, one focusing on child mortality in Africa and the challenges in achieving target 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals through the reduction of under-5 mortality to no more than 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030 in all countries (No. 2017/6),[10] and a second on the overall increase in life expectancy at birth between 1970 and 2015 by region (No. 2017/9).[11]

13. The Population Division prepared a data booklet entitled *World Mortality 2017*,[12] which presents key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels. The data booklet focuses on a number of mortality indicators and presents variations among countries.

14. In follow-up to the expert group meeting on methodology and lessons learned to evaluate the completeness and quality of vital statistics data from civil registration, organized jointly by the Population Division and Statistics Korea on 3 and 4 November 2016 in New York,[13] the Division issued a meeting report and two technical papers: the first reviews the current state of knowledge with regard to analytical methods to evaluate the completeness and quality of child and adult death registration;[14] the second provides a comprehensive overview of the principles and international experiences in implementing record linkage mechanisms to assess completeness of death registration.[15]

15. The Population Division worked on the *World Mortality Report 2017*, which presents the results of the *2017 Revision of World Population Prospects* and provides an overview of levels and trends of mortality for the period from 1970 to 2015 at the

[8] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/fertility/wfd2017.shtml.

[9] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/fertility/world-fertility-2015.shtml.

[10] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-6.pdf.

[11] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-9.pdf.

[12] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/412.

[13] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/26/index.shtml.

[14] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2017-2.pdf.

[15] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2017-5.pdf.

world level, for development groups and major areas, along with *Highlights* that will provide a concise overview of levels and trends in mortality for key age groups. The Division issued in advance of the report an online data set containing the analytical tables to be presented in the report.[16] The Excel tables provide estimates of life expectancy at birth, infant and under-5 mortality, the probability of dying between ages 15 and 60, and between birth and age 60 and life expectancy at age 60 by country and region for five-year periods from 1950–1955 to 2010–2015. Also issued as part of the online materials for the report is the *Mortality Data Inventory 2017*, a comprehensive inventory of the availability of primary data for the estimation of adult and child mortality at the national level; the inventory can be queried through an interactive web database.[17]

16. The Population Division conducted a desk review of existing data sources to measure mortality in both developed and developing countries to inform the *Mortality Data Inventory 2017* and continued to compile basic data tabulations on population and adult mortality by age and sex from various demographic sources, including censuses and household surveys. The Division is consolidating this information with relevant metadata into a database to facilitate further analytical work to estimate mortality and assess data quality and completeness.

IV. International migration

17. The Population Division issued a new set of estimates on the international migrant stock disaggregated by age and sex and by country of birth or citizenship for 232 countries and areas since 1990 in *International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*.[18] According to this latest assessment, the global stock of international migrants reached 258 million by mid-2017, an increase of 49 per cent as compared with 2000. The release of the *2017 Revision* was accompanied by the publication *International Migration Report 2017 — Highlights*, summarizing the main levels and trends in international migration.[19]

18. The Division published the *International Migration Report 2017*,[20] which analyses levels and trends in the international migrant stock, assesses the contribution of net migration to total population change, discusses recent developments on migration at the United Nations and provides updated information on the ratification of international instruments related to international migration. The Division also published the wallchart *International Migration 2017*.[21] The wallchart provides key indicators on the number of international migrants, information on the ratification of international instruments related to international migration and estimates on the inflow of migrant remittances.

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[16] *World Mortality Report 2017: CD-ROM edition* (POP/DB/WMR/2017). Available online at: www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/mortality/world-mortality-cdrom-2017.shtml.

[17] *World Mortality Report 2017: Mortality Data Inventory 2017* (POP/DB/MORT/2017). Available online at: www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/mortality/.

[18] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates17.shtml.

[19] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf.

[20] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017.pdf.

[21] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/wallchart/docs/MigrationWallChart2017.pdf.

19. The fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held in New York from 16 to 17 February 2017. The main objectives of the meeting were: (a) to take stock of progress made in implementing the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1); (b) to contribute to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (General Assembly resolution 71/1); (c) provide a venue for Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to present, discuss and coordinate activities and initiatives on international migration. The report of the meeting[22] summarizes the discussions and main findings.

20. With a view to supporting the process of intergovernmental negotiations for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, the Population Division produced a *Compendium of agreed language on migration*.[23] The web-based compendium brings together conventions, declarations and resolutions related to international migration that have been adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

21. The Division produced two *Population Facts* briefs on international migration. The first (No. 2017/5)[24] presents the main findings from the 2017 revision of the international migrant stock estimates. The second (No. 2017/8)[25] analyses the contribution of net migration to overall population change, based on the *2017 Revision* of *World Population Prospects*.

22. The Division issued a technical paper that provides the latest evidence on the linkages between international migration and development.[26] The paper examines the relationship between informal labour markets and international migration and addresses the challenges and opportunities of regularizing informal labour markets through, inter alia, providing legal pathways to migrants. A second technical paper[27] discusses the application of individual-level census data and indirect demographic estimation techniques to provide new and comparable estimates of the contribution of natural population growth, internal and international migration to population change in 23 city-regions across the world from 1990 to 2010.

23. The Population Division collaborated with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank in organizing the fifth edition of the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development in New York on 15 and 16 June 2017.[28] The meeting coincided with the third annual International Day of Family Remittances, celebrated on 16 June.

24. The Division participated in a round table, organized by the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Berlin on 30 June. The Division participated in various

[22] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/.coordination/15/index.shtml.

[23] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/resolutions/docsearch.shtml.

[24] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-5.pdf.

[25] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20178.pdf.

[26] See http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/technicalpapers/docs/TP2017-8.pdf.

[27] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2017-10.pdf.

[28] See https://www.ifad.org/web/events/gfrid2017.

activities organized by the Global Migration Group. As co-chairs of the working group on data and research, the Division and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) oversaw the preparations for a handbook for improving the production and use of migration data for development.[29]

25. The Population Division collaborated with the Statistics Division in organizing an expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York from 20 to 22 June.[30] The aim of the meeting was to assess data requirements for measuring the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and to provide inputs to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

V. Global population estimates and projections

26. In June 2017, the United Nations Population Division issued *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*,[31] which received considerable media coverage following its launch at a press conference. According to this latest assessment, the world's population numbered nearly 7.6 billion in mid-2017 and is projected to increase to 9.7 billion by 2050. These results are based on the medium-variant projection, which assumes a decline in fertility in countries where large families are still prevalent and a slight increase in fertility in several low-fertility countries.

27. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the work of the Population Division. These estimates and projections are used extensively within the United Nations system and by the general public and are distributed as part of widely used databases accessible on the Internet, including the World Development Indicators database, maintained by the World Bank; the data portal of the United Nations, UNdata, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and FAOSTAT, the statistics database maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Several commercial database services also redistribute the work of the Population Division, under agreements with the Department of Public Information.

28. The Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world up to the year 2100. Given the long projection horizon, results at the country level are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. Users are thus invited to focus not only on the outcomes of the medium variant, which corresponds to the median of several thousand projected country trajectories for each component, but also on the uncertainty intervals, which describe a range of plausible outcomes. The results from the probabilistic projections are available on the Division's website.[32]

29. Several outputs presenting the results of the *2017 Revision* are available on the website of the Population Division. Highlights of the new estimates and projections are presented in the report *Key Findings and Advance Tables*.[33] Detailed data for

[29] Available from https://www.knomad.org/publication/handbook-improving-production-and-use-migration-data-development-0.

[30] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data.

[31] See https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/.

[32] See https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Download/Probabilistic/Population/.

[33] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf.

world regions and for countries are areas are available from the website in a variety of formats, including Excel and ASCII file formats, an interactive database and two PDF volumes (*Volume I: Comprehensive Tables*[34] and *Volume II: Demographic Profiles*).[35] Supporting materials such as data sources and meta-information are made available as well. The site also includes useful figures and maps illustrating the data. Print publications from the *2017 Revision* include a wallchart[36] and a data booklet,[37] providing key demographic indicators for all countries and areas of the world, and two *Population Facts* briefs that analyse the results: *The end of high fertility is near* (No. 2017/3)[38] and *The impact of population momentum on future population growth* (No. 2017/4).[39] A report entitled *Methodology of the United Nations Population Estimates and Projections*[40] gives an overview of the data and methods used in the 2017 Revision, while two technical papers present studies that led to the revision of projection methods for life expectancy at birth[41] and for age-specific mortality.[42]

30. In 2017, the Population Division continued its work on revising and updating the software used to generate the global population estimates and projections presented in *World Population Prospects*. The Population Division has continued to develop probabilistic population projections for all countries and areas of the world up to the year 2100 and made important changes in the mortality modules.

31. In 2017, the Population Division began work on the *2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, which will contain updated estimates of the urban and rural populations of 233 countries or areas from 1950 to 2018 and projections to 2050, as well as estimates of population size from 1950 to 2018 and projections to 2035 for all urban agglomerations with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2018. The results are expected to be released in the second quarter of 2018.

VI. Population policies

32. In 2017, the Population Division published a data booklet entitled *International Migration Policies*[43] that highlights current policies on immigration and emigration for all countries of the world, drawing on data published in the 2015 revision of the *World Population Policies Database*. The booklet provides information on

[34] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Volume-I_Comprehensive-Tables.pdf.

[35] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Volume-II-Demographic-Profiles.pdf.

[36] World Population 2017 (Wallchart) (ST/ESA/SER.A/398) Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Wallchart.pdf.

[37] Data Booklet World Population Prospects 2017 — Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/401). Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_DataBooklet.pdf.

[38] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/PopFacts_2017-3_The-end-of-high-fertility.pdf.

[39] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/PopFacts_2017-4_Population-Momentum.pdf.

[40] Methodology of the United Nations (ESA/P/WP.250). Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_Methodology.pdf.

[41] Technical paper No. 2017/7. Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_TechnicalPaperNo7.pdf.

[42] Technical paper No. 2017/6. Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_TechnicalPaperNo6.pdf.

[43] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/international_migration_policies_data_booklet.pdf.

government measures to promote integration of immigrants, measures to address irregular immigration and policies to encourage investment by diasporas.

33. The Division published another data booklet, entitled *Reproductive Health Policies 2017*.[44] This booklet highlights government policies and programmes on family planning and reproductive health, drawing on data published in the 2015 revision of the *World Population Policies Database*. The booklet provides information on government support for family planning, policy measures to promote access to contraception, measures to improve the reproductive and sexual health of adolescents and measures to reduce maternal and newborn mortality.

34. The Division published two *Population Facts* briefs on policy topics. The first focused on international migration policies (No. 2017/7)[45] and the second on fertility policies around the world (No. 2017/10).[46] The Division also published an infochart[47] on policies to balance family and work life, focusing on countries with low fertility.

35. The Division continued its work on the Global Abortion Policies project in collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organization (WHO). The project is expected to develop an interactive, open-access database and repository of current abortion laws and policies. Once finalized, the database will allow users to download data and supporting legal and policy documents for selected countries or regions of the world.

36. The Division initiated a technical paper on the methodology for the measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.2, "Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies". The paper will present the conceptual framework, including six domains and corresponding proxy measures for global monitoring of progress on indicator 10.7.2. The paper will also describe the methodology for data collection using the migration module of the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development.

37. The Division also began work on a paper on policies to address population ageing. Using the latest data from the *World Population Policies Database* and the *World Population Prospects*, the paper examines government concerns and specific policy measures adopted to address population ageing in relation to current and projected levels of population ageing.

38. In 2017, the Division started preparations for the implementation of the twelfth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. The Inquiry, mandated by the General Assembly in 1962, is a long-standing survey among Governments to gather information on selected policies and programmes related to population issues to help monitor progress in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

[44] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/reproductive_health_policies_2017_data_booklet.pdf.

[45] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-7.pdf.

[46] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-10.pdf.

[47] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/Infochart_work-family_balance.pdf.

VII. Population and development

39. The Population Division published *World Population Ageing 2017*[48] and a summary of the highlights of the report,[49] incorporating up-to-date estimates and projections of the number and share of older persons in the population for all countries and regions, based on *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*. The full report presents a detailed picture of trends in population ageing and the number of older persons at the regional and country levels, as well as descriptions of the demographic characteristics of older persons and the demographic drivers of population ageing. The *Highlights* report provides a summary of global trends in population ageing. Both the *Highlights* and the full report include a special focus on global and regional trends in the household living arrangements of older persons, reflecting global and regional summaries of the country estimates compiled in the *United Nations Database on the Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2017*,[50] which the Division published to complement its work in the area of ageing.

40. The database presents a compilation of indicators on the household composition, or living arrangements, of persons aged 60 or over, estimated using both tabulated data and micro-data from censuses and household surveys. The estimates are based on 664 data sources from 143 countries or areas, representing approximately 97 per cent of persons aged 60 or over globally, with dates ranging from 1960 to 2015. The estimates are disaggregated by sex and age (age 60–79 years and age 80 years or over) and, where data permit, by urban and rural residence. The accompanying report on the living arrangements of older persons 2017[51] describes in detail the data sources and methods used to estimate the household living arrangements of older persons, analyses the country-level patterns and trends in older persons' living arrangements and reviews the available evidence on the proportion of older persons residing in non-household collective quarters, such as nursing facilities. In addition, the Division prepared an infochart[52] on world population ageing, which presents a snapshot of the main results of the report *World Population Ageing 2017*.

41. The Population Division completed a database that documents recent trends in size and composition of households around the world. Information about households was compiled using microdata obtained from censuses and household surveys. In addition to trends in household size and composition, the database includes estimates of living arrangements of persons by age. The database builds on the Division's earlier work on the living arrangements of older persons, extending it to include estimates of the living arrangements of children, youth and working-age adults.[53]

42. The Population Division has also published the data booklet *Household Size and Composition Around the World, 2017*,[54] drawing on the database on household size and composition. The results show that, on average, small household sizes are

[48] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2017_Report.pdf.

[49] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2017_Highlights.pdf.

[50] Available from https://population.un.org/LivingArrangements/index.html.

[51] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/LivingArrangements.pdf.

[52] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/WPA2017_Infochart.pdf.

[53] See https://population.un.org/Household/index.html#/countries.

[54] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/household_size_and_composition_around_the_world_2017_data_booklet.pdf.

observed in Europe and Northern America and large average household sizes are observed across much of Africa and the Middle East. In addition, the Division prepared a *Population Facts* brief on household size and composition around the world (No. 2017/2). The brief highlights the main results from the data booklet on the same topic.[55]

43. In 2017, the Population Division continued the development of an interactive database to archive and display the geographic coordinates of city boundaries using various definitions (for example, city proper, urban agglomeration, metropolitan area) and the size of the associated populations as enumerated in national censuses. The selection of countries and censuses for this first round took into consideration the availability of publicly accessible geographic information system boundary files linked to censuses, the number of cities with 100,000 inhabitants or more and regional representation. Continuing work will expand the number of countries, cities and census years included in the database, with the ultimate goal of global coverage for cities with at least 100,000 inhabitants from 1990 to the present.

VIII. Support for intergovernmental processes

A. Reports of the Secretary-General

44. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2017, "Changing population age structures and sustainable development" (E/CN.9/2017/2). The report reviews the changes taking place in the age distribution of populations around the world. These changes are affected by economic and social factors and have important implications for sustainable development. The report documents trends in the population age structure over time, as well as differences across countries and regions. It highlights the critical role of population policies and improvements in health, education, employment and social protection, among other factors, in determining the social and economic consequences that may derive from these demographic changes.

B. Other parliamentary documents

45. For the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, in 2017, the Population Division prepared a note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the Division during the period 2018–2019 (E/CN.9/2017/CRP.1).

C. Expert group meetings

46. The Division convened an expert group meeting on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration in New York on 7 and 8 September 2017 to gather inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission, in 2017.[56] Representatives of academia, United Nations organizations, local governments and non-governmental organizations were

[55] Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2017-2.pdf.

[56] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/expert-group/27/index.shtml.

in attendance. There was a broad consensus among participants that, overall, the contribution of migration and urbanization to development are positive. Participants stressed the need for better data on migration and urbanization, including for the review and follow-up mandated by major recent international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the New Urban Agenda. Several presentations focused on the substantive links between migration and urbanization and discussed the tendency of migrants to settle in cities. It was acknowledged that migrant populations present important challenges and opportunities for urban development. Local authorities are on the frontlines of assisting migrants to find work and shelter and to obtain access to services. Migrants living and working in cities are often agents of change, while cities often function as centres of innovation, invention and originality. Although only national authorities have the authority to regulate the entry, stay and work of foreigners, the consensus of the experts was that the perspectives and activities of local authorities are key to the success of countries in integrating migrants. The Population Division collaborated in the organization of the expert group meeting by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and IOM. The report of the meeting, prepared by the Population Division, summarizes the discussions and its main conclusions.

D. Monitoring of internationally agreed development goals

47. During 2017, the Population Division contributed to the work of the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of target 3.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely, to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age by 2030. The Inter-Agency Group, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, also includes the Population Division and the World Bank. The Division provided inputs to update the online database of mortality estimates for infants, children under 5 and children aged 5 to 14 years maintained by UNICEF,[57] and to inform the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017*.[58] The Division also assisted in reviewing the final estimates and in preparing the *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017*.[59]

48. The Population Division also participated from 5 to 7 April and 9 to 11 November 2017 in two meetings of the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group, which is responsible for monitoring progress towards the reduction of maternal mortality as targeted under Sustainable Development Goal 3. The Inter-agency Group is led by WHO, with the participation of UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the Population Division. The purpose of the meetings was to review the methodology and new sources of data to be used for the next round of estimates of maternal mortality ratios, to be published in October 2018, and to discuss dissemination plans, the country consultation process and regional workshops. The Division has been an active contributor to the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group census technical working Group focusing on the estimation of pregnancy-related mortality from census data in developing countries and has been

[57] http://childmortality.org/.

[58] Available from http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/.

[59] Available from www.childmortality.org/2017/files_v21/download/IGME%20report%202017%20child%20mortality%20final.pdf.

focusing on methodological aspects and quality assessment of mortality data from vital registration, surveys and other sources.

49. The Population Division[60] published its comprehensive collection of survey-based estimates of family planning indicators, *World Contraceptive Use 2017*,[2] as well as model-based estimates and projections of such indicators, *Estimates and Projections of Family Planning Indicators 2017*,[3] providing information for individual years from 1970 to 2030. These data sets informed the Secretary-General's report on global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (A/72/114-E/2017/75), in particular, with regard to Sustainable Development Goal target 3.7 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning. The comprehensive data set and model-based estimates and projections provide critical evidence regarding the degree to which the demand for family planning is being met and whether that demand is being satisfied by the use of modern methods of contraception (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.1).

50. The publications of the Population Division on contraceptive use and family planning are widely used by organizations that work to improve sexual and reproductive health, including global initiatives such as Family Planning 2020. The Division is now working to expand the collection of data inputs and the methods used for the model-based estimates and projections to obtain results that apply to all women of reproductive age, rather than being limited to women who are married or in a union. Since 2014, the further development of the Division's work on family planning indicators has been supported by extrabudgetary contributions from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Population Division has now completed the compilation of available data on the use of family planning by unmarried women and is preparing estimates of the various indicators pertaining to all women of reproductive age for the 2018 report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. As the custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.7.2 (adolescent birth rates at ages 10–14 and 15–19) the Division provided updates on adolescent birth rates for women aged 15–19, now available for 219 countries or areas for the period 2000–2015. In an effort also to measure fertility of the youngest age groups, the Population Division is currently identifying ways to collect adolescent birth rates data for the 10–14 years age-group.

52. In 2017, the Division continued its collaboration with IOM to develop the methodology for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies. The conceptual framework for the methodology for indicator 10.7.2, based on the IOM Migration Governance Framework, comprises six interrelated domains: (a) migrant rights, (b) institutional capacities, (c) migration governance, (d) cooperation and partnerships, (e) Migration and development and (f) cross-border forced displacement.

[60] The Division is the custodian agency for two indicators of Sustainable Development Goal target 3.7: indicator 3.7.1 and indicator 3.7.2 (no additional regular budgetary support provided). The main tasks of the custodian agency are two-fold: first, to compile comparable international data series, calculate global and regional aggregates and provide them, together with the metadata, to the Statistics Division. Second, to prepare the story line for the annual progress report. Data are compiled and updated annually in the first quarter of the year and released during the second quarter.

53. In 2017, the Population Division and IOM co-organized two regional workshops, jointly with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to discuss and validate the proposed methodology for indicator 10.7.2. The Division also made preparations to conduct three online regional consultations with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), as well as a global consultation to include the civil society and other stakeholders. These online consultations are expected to be carried out in early 2018.

54. The Division participated in the system-wide consultations and reviews of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Group was established by the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session to develop an indicator framework for monitoring the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level and to support its implementation. Throughout the year, the Division participated in the review of indicators, including discussions on options for indicators that are not yet clearly defined. The Division also participated in the review of data flows — from the national to the regional and global levels — and in discussions on best practices for the delivery of such data.

E. Support for the intergovernmental process on migration

55. Until August 2017, the Division supported the work of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, Peter Sutherland, by administering the extrabudgetary funds that supported his work. This included substantive support for his travel and that of his consultants, hosting and maintaining his website[61] and providing advice and guidance on interactions of the Special Representative related to the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Population Division also contributed to the preparations of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration and assisted the Special Representative's team so that the report could be published as an official United Nations document for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly (A/71/728).

56. In addition, the Division provided input to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and review of the commitments of the New York Declaration (A/71/978) and the report of the Secretary-General on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (forthcoming).

57. The Division supported the General Assembly in the negotiations on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (General Assembly resolution 71/280). The Population Division assisted the Office of the President of the General Assembly in organizing the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings (in July, October and December 2017), held in preparation for the negotiations on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Since March 2017, the Division has maintained the web page on the global compact.[62]

58. The Population Division contributed to the six informal thematic sessions on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration held by the General Assembly (in May, June, July, September and October 2017). The Division participated in the preparation

[61] www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/partners/srsg.shtml.

[62] http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact.

of the inter-agency issue briefs and co-led, with the World Bank, the preparation of the issue brief on contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits.[63]

59. The Population Division supported the regional consultations for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The Division contributed to the preparatory meetings organized by ECLAC in Santiago on 30 and 31 August, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut on 26 and 27 September) and ECA in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 October.

60. In response to a request from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, the Population Division developed, in collaboration with the Statistical Division, IOM and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a joint statement on improving data for safe, orderly and regular migration.[64] The statement will inform the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

61. Given the importance of migration on the global agenda, the Division responded to an unprecedented number of requests for briefing notes, talking points and statements on migration and related issues from senior officials of the United Nations. The Division provided these materials in a timely manner while maintaining a high standard of quality and staff also served as note-takers during numerous meetings of senior officials.

IX. Dissemination of population information and data

62. Staff from the Population Division participated in meetings of population-related professional associations, which provide a platform for dissemination of the Division's work in academic circles. In 2017, the Division gave presentations at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, held in Chicago, United States, from 27 to 29 April, and the twenty-eighth International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, held in Cape Town, from 29 October to 3 November.

63. At the meeting of the Population Association of America, the Division organized a panel discussion and delivered a presentation on "International Migration and the United Nations: Latest Developments and Future Directions". At the International Population Conference, the Division organized a session on strengthening migration data and research in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

64. The Division supported the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in developing a statement on strengthening migration data, research and training in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The statement was developed in response to resolution 71/280, in which all relevant stakeholders, including scientific and knowledge-based institutions, were invited to contribute to the preparatory process of elaborating the migration compact.[65]

65. The Division maintained the *United Nations Global Migration Database*, a comprehensive collection of empirical data on the number and characteristics of international migrants worldwide. By the end of 2017, the database included over

[63] See http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/thematic-sessions.

[64] Available from http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/stocktaking_un_iom_oecd.pdf.

[65] See http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/general-contributions.

5,500 data tables for over 92 per cent of countries and areas worldwide. With more than 7,700 registered users located in over 150 countries, the database has become an indispensable resource for migration researchers.

66. To improve dissemination, all data sets and output from *World Population Prospects* were made available online.[5] Users can download over 600 data files in Microsoft Excel format, as well as database-friendly ASCII files. The website also contains methodological information, analytical charts and the results of probabilistic fertility and mortality projections. According to data from Google Analytics, the website had about 1.5 million page views in 2017, of which over 1 million were unique page views.

67. During 2017, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website, which provides access to timely population information for use by government officials, academic researchers, the private sector and civil society. The website contains all the publications issued by the Division in recent years and a full collection of documents and statements before the Commission on Population and Development since 1994. Web traffic statistics indicate that, in 2017, the Division's website was visited by an average of 15,600 users per day, generating some 5.7 million page views for the year.

68. The Population Division, in collaboration with the Communications and Information Management Service of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs produced a video on changing population age structures and sustainable development. The video was made available on YouTube on 31 March 2017.

69. The Division ensured that all briefings for Member States that were webcast were made available through the Division's website. Also, working through the Communications and Information Management Service, the Population Division used Twitter and Facebook to publicize the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development.

70. The Population Division received many requests for data and provided such data and information in a timely manner. In 2017, the Division continued to meet with delegations of Member States to discuss various population-related topics, including the biennial estimates and projections of the world population, the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

X. Technical cooperation

71. The Population Division conducted a technical mission on population estimates and projections at the Institut de Statistiques et d'Études Économiques du Burundi as part of a project supported by the Development Account entitled "Strengthening capacities of developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa to effectively produce and use population estimates and projections in policymaking for sustainable development". The technical mission was held in in Bujumbura from 13 to 17 November 2017.

72. In 2017, as part of a training fellowship agreement between the Population Division and Statistics Korea, the Population Division received a senior professional of Statistics Korea and provided hands-on training on demographic estimation and projection methods. In addition, a delegation composed of senior officials from

several ministries of the Government of the Republic of Korea visited the Population Division from 11 to 13 July 2017 for briefings on various demographic topics.

73. The Population Division convened a regional meeting on population ageing in sub-Saharan Africa in Lilongwe from 19 to 21 July 2016. The meeting was organized under the ninth tranche of the Development Account project to strengthen national capacities to collect and use population data for evidence-based policymaking. This activity was jointly undertaken with the Division for Social Policy and Development, which is currently implementing a regional Development Account project on evidence-based policymaking on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa.

74. The Population Division is an active partner and contributor to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics, composed of international and regional organizations coming together to forge stronger alliances in the area of civil registration and vital statistics.[66] The Population Division participated from 20 to 24 February 2017 in an expert group meeting on the management and evaluation of civil registration and vital statistics systems,[67] organized by the Statistics Division. The Division also participated in an expert group meeting on disability statistics,[68] organized by the United Nations Statistics Division from 12 to 14 July 2017, and gave a presentation on the disaggregation of mortality data by disability status, covering measurement challenges and strategies to address them.

75. The Population Division participated in a meeting of the Reference Group on Global Health Statistics, held in Geneva on 14 and 15 March 2017. The Group provides advice on a broad range of health-related statistics of relevance to WHO, including age-specific mortality, causes of death and standards for calculating and reporting health statistics. The meeting focused on monitoring the mortality-related Sustainable Development Goals — in particular, on the challenges of monitoring mortality by cause of death in different settings, including those with high-quality death registration systems and those with incomplete systems still under development.

76. The Population Division participated in an expert consultation meeting on 19 January 2017 to review the maternal mortality and child mortality findings of the Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey 2015, to advise on the public release of the data and report and to provide guidance on caveats and further analysis of these data, especially with respect to their use by international organizations in the context of the estimates produced by the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation and Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group.

[66] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/crvs/globalcrvs.html.

[67] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-on-management-and-evaluation-of-crvs-systems/.

[68] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--disability-egm/.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or events organized by the Population Division (1 January–31 December 2017)

Expert group meetings

Fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 16 and 17 February 2017

Expert panel on international migration and the United Nations: latest developments and future directions, annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Chicago, 29 April 2017

Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development, New York, 15 and 16 June 2017

Expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, New York, 20–22 June 2017

Expert group meeting on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration, 7 and 8 September 2017

Expert panel on strengthening migration data and research in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, International Population Conference, Cape Town 31 October 2017

Training workshops

Technical assistance mission on the production of population estimates and projections, Institut de Statistiques et d'Études Économiques du Burundi, Bujumbura, 13–17 November 2017

Workshop on measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicator on countries with well-managed migration policies, Bangkok, 8 November 2017

Workshop on measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicator on countries with well-managed migration policies, Santiago, 29 August 2017

Workshop on collecting and using migration-related data for development: cooperation and exchange in the European-African corridor, Rome, 30 November–2 December 2016.

Reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents

Report of the Secretary-General on changing population age structures and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2017/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2017/5)

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the period 2018–2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs[a]

[a] See www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/pdf/50/1CN92017CRP1.pdf.

Research studies

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision: Key Findings and Advance Tables (ESA/P/WP/248).

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision Volume I: Comprehensive Tables (ST/ESA/SER.A/399).

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision Volume II: Demographic Profiles (ST/ESA/SER.A/400).

World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision: Methodology of the United Nations Population Estimates and Projections (ESA/P/WP.250)

World Mortality Report 2015 — Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/382)

World Mortality Report 2015 (ST/ESA/SER.A/381)

International Migration Report 2017 (ST/ESA/SER.A/403)

International Migration — Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/404)

World Fertility Report 2015 (ST/ESA/SER.A/415)

World Family Planning 2017 — Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/414)

Changing population age structures and sustainable development (ST/ESA/SER.A/XXX)

Databases

World Contraceptive Use 2017 data set (web data set)

World Fertility Data 2017 (web data set)

World Marriage Data 2017 (web data set)

World Mortality Data Inventory 2017 (web data set)[b]

United Nations Database on the Living Arrangements of Older Persons 2017

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision* (DVD edition)

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision — Special Aggregates*, DVD edition

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *Probabilistic Population Projections based on the World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*

International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision

Compendium of agreed language on international migration

[b] **Available from** www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/mortality/world-mortality-cdrom-2017.shtml

Wallcharts, infocharts and data booklets

World Population 2017 Wallchart (ST/ESA/SER.A/398)

World Population Prospects 2017 — Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/401)

Reproductive Health Policies 2017: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/396)

Household Size and Composition around the World 2017: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/405)

International Migration Policies: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/395)

World Mortality 2017: Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/412)

International Migration Wallchart 2017 (ST/ESA/SER.A/402)

"Policies to influence fertility and promote work-family balance" (Infochart)

"World population ageing 2017" (Infochart)

Technical papers series

"Support ratios and demographic dividends: estimates for the world" (technical paper No. 2017/1)

"Analytical methods to evaluate the completeness and 1uality of death registration: current state of knowledge" (technical paper No. 2017/2)

"Evaluating the completeness of death registration for developing countries at old ages" (technical paper No. 2017/4)

"Overview of the principles and international experiences in implementing record linkage mechanisms to assess completeness of death registration" (technical paper No. 2017/5)

"Projecting age-sex-specific mortality: a comparison of the modified Lee-Carter method and pattern of mortality decline methods" (technical paper No. 2017/6).

"A sensitivity analysis of the Bayesian framework for projecting life expectancy at birth" (technical paper No. 2017/7).

"Migration is a form of development: the need for innovation to regulate migration for mutual benefit" (technical paper No. 2017/8)

"International migration and city growth" (technical paper No. 2017/10)

Policy briefs

"Population facts: population ageing and sustainable development", No. 2017/1

"Population facts: household size and composition around the world", No. 2017/2

"Population facts: the end of high fertility is near", No. 2017/3

"Population facts: the impact of population momentum on future population growth", No. 2017/4

"Population facts: the world counted 258 million international migrants in 2017, representing 3.4 per cent of global population, No. 2017/5

"Population facts: Africa unlikely to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target on child mortality without unprecedented effort to accelerate progress", No. 2017/6

"Population facts: policies on international migration", No. 2017/7

"Population facts: migration and population change" — drivers and impacts", No. 2017/8

"Population facts: life expectancy at birth increasing in less developed regions", No. 2017/9

"Population facts: Government policies to raise or lower the fertility level", No. 2017/10

"Population facts: tracking global progress in family planning", No. 2017/11.